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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for screening of a substance that exhibits brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises

(1) measuring and comparing

a signal transduction activity in a cell ~~capable of producing~~ expressing a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:8 or a salt thereof in the presence of a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by amino acid numbers 1 to 70 in SEQ ID NO:2, or a salt thereof in the absence of a test compound and

the signal transduction activity in the presence of the protein consisting of the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, the protein consisting of the amino acid sequence represented by the amino acid numbers 1 to 70 in SEQ ID NO:2, or a salt thereof, and a test compound; and

(2) identifying the test compound that ~~inhibits~~ decreases the signal transduction activity by about 20% or more in the presence of the test compound, compared to the signal transduction activity in the absence of the test compound, as a candidate compound for a substance that exhibits the brain/nerve cell protective action.

13-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method for screening of a substance that exhibits brain /nerve cell protective action, which comprises

(1) measuring and comparing a binding activity between

a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by amino acid numbers 1 to 70 in SEQ ID NO:2, or a salt thereof and

a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:8 or a salt thereof

in the presence ~~and absence of~~ a test compound and the absence of the test compound; and

(2) identifying the test compound that ~~inhibits~~ decreases the binding activity by about 20% or more in the presence of the test compound, compared to the binding activity in the absence of the test compound, as a candidate compound for a substance that exhibits the brain/nerve cell protective action.